

receiving a first input associated with a first set of concepts from said lexicon, said first input representing a first location in the semantic space;

receiving a second input associated with a second set of concepts from said lexicon, said second input representing a second location in the semantic space;

determining a semantic distance from the first location to the second location by combination of the semantic distance between each concept in the first set of concepts and each concept in the second set of concepts.

17. A method for searching a semantic space structured by a lexicon comprising:

receiving an input associated with a first set of concepts from said lexicon and representing a first location in the semantic space;

maintaining a target data set, wherein target data is associated with a second set of concepts from said lexicon that represents a second location in the semantic space;

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determining a semantic distance from the first location in the semantic space to the second location in the semantic space for each target data, wherein said semantic distance is determined by combination of the relative closeness in meaning between each concept in the first set of concepts and each concept in the second set of concepts; and

presenting results of a search conducted on the target data set for target data close in meaning to the input based on the determined semantic distance.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the input is a data item and the associated set of concepts represents at least one of the meaning of said data item and important concepts relevant to the data item.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said data item is text.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is derived from the conversion of a printed text to electronic form.

21. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is derived from audio data.

22. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is derived from video data.
23. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is used to label an entity.
- SUB B2 24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said labeled entity is one from the group of an image, video, sound file, document or other similar media.
25. A method according to claim 23 wherein said labeled entity is a person and where the labeling represents data about the person such as his interests or geographical location.
26. A method according to claim 23 wherein said labeled entity is one from the group of an advertisement, a product or service, or a category.
27. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is a user query.
28. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is a domain name or a full URL.
29. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is a document.
- A2 30. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is web content.
31. A method according to claim 19 wherein said text is an electronic communication.
- SUB B3 32. A method according to claim 18 wherein said data item is one from the group of an image, video, sound file, document or other similar media.
33. A method according to claim 18 wherein said set of concepts is associated with a person.
34. A method according to claim 18 wherein said data item is one from the group of an advertisement, a product or service or a category.
35. A method according to claim 18 wherein said set of concepts associated with said data item is predetermined.
36. A method according to claim 35 wherein said set of concepts associated with said data item is specified by a user.

37. A method according to claim 35 wherein said set of concepts associated with said data item represents at least one from the group of the meaning of said data item and information relevant to said data item.
38. A method according to claim 35 further comprising enabling a user to select at least one meaning from the set of possible meanings for said data item in order to provide the correct interpretation for establishing a set of concepts representing the meaning of the data item.
39. A method according to claim 17 wherein the target data is a data item and the associated set of concepts represents at least one of the meaning of said data item and important concepts relevant to the data item.
40. A method according to claim 39 wherein said data item is text.
41. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is derived from the conversion of a printed text to electronic form.
42. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is derived from audio data.
43. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is derived from video data.
44. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is used to label an entity.
45. A method according to claim 44 wherein said labeled entity is one from the group of an image, video, sound file, document or other similar media.
46. A method according to claim 44 wherein said labeled entity is a person and where the labeling represents data about the person such as his interests or geographical location.
47. A method according to claim 44 wherein said labeled entity is one from the group of an advertisement, a product or service, or a category.
48. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is a user query.
49. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is a domain name or a full URL.
50. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is a document.

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51. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is web content.
52. A method according to claim 40 wherein said text is an electronic communication.
53. A method according to claim 39 wherein said data item is one from the group of an image, video, sound file, document or other similar media.
54. A method according to claim 39 wherein said set of concepts is associated with a person.
55. A method according to claim 39 wherein said data item is one from the group of an advertisement, a product or service or a category.
56. A method according to claim 39 wherein said set of concepts associated with said data item is predetermined.
57. A method according to claim 56 wherein said set of concepts associated with said data item is specified by a user.
58. A method according to claim 56 wherein said set of concepts associated with said data item represents at least one from the group of the meaning of said data item and information relevant to said data item.
59. A method according to claim 56 further comprising enabling a user to select at least one meaning from the set of possible meanings for said data item in order to provide the correct interpretation for establishing a set of concepts representing the meaning of the data item.
60. A method according to claim 17 wherein said second location is assigned a monetary value.
61. A method according to claim 60 wherein the price of retrieving target data is determined by the monetary value of a set of concepts it is associated with.
62. A method according to claim 60 wherein the price of being included in a target data set is determined by the monetary value of a set of concepts it is associated with.

63. A method according to claim 60 wherein the monetary value of a set of concepts is determined through bidding.

64. A method according to claim 60 wherein the monetary value of a set of concepts is based on the cost of its sub-space in the semantic space.

65. A method according to claim 60 wherein the price of retrieving target data is dynamically calculated in response to an input query, the price of returning the target data in the result increasing with the relevance of its associated set of concepts to the query.

66. A method of generating a search result in response to a search request comprising:

receiving an input which is associated with a first location in semantic space;

maintaining a target data set for which each target data element is associated with a target location in semantic space, wherein the target location in semantic space corresponds to a monetary value;

determining a semantic distance from the first location in the semantic space to the target location in the semantic space for each target data element;

identifying target data elements close in meaning to the input, wherein the closeness in meaning is determined by the semantic distance from the first location in the semantic space to the target location in the semantic space; and

organizing the identified target data elements according to a monetary value of the target location in the semantic space and the semantic distance between the target location in semantic space and the first location in semantic space.

67. A method of generating a search result in response to a search request comprising:

organizing concepts according to their meaning into a lexicon, said lexicon defining elements of a semantic space;

receiving a search request and associating said search request with a first set of concepts from said lexicon that represents a first location in the semantic space;

relating the search request to a larger set of search terms, wherein added terms in the larger set of search terms are close in meaning to the original search request based on predetermined semantic relationships defined by the lexicon;

assigning a monetary value to listings in a target data set;

searching the target data set for elements generating a match with the larger set of search terms; and

ordering identified target data elements from the target data set in accordance with the monetary value of the target data elements and the closeness in meaning between the original search terms and the expanded search terms.

68. A method of generating a search result in response to a search request comprising:

organizing concepts according to their meaning into a lexicon, said lexicon defining elements of a semantic space;

receiving a search request;

maintaining a target data set and associating each element of said target data set with a set of concepts from said lexicon that represents a location in the semantic space;

assigning a monetary value to the location in semantic space associated with each target data set element;

processing the target data set element to result in a larger set of terms, wherein the larger set of terms includes results close in meaning to the elements of the target data set based on predetermined semantic relationships defined by the lexicon;

searching the larger set of terms to generate matches with the search request; and

ordering the generated matches in accordance with the monetary value of the target data elements generated by the search of the larger set of terms and the closeness in meaning between the original target data terms and the expanded target data terms.

69. An information handling system for generating a search result in response to a search request comprising:

an input apparatus, wherein the input apparatus provides an input associated with a first location in semantic space;

a network including target locations in a semantic space, wherein target location in semantic space corresponds to a monetary value;

means for determining a semantic distance from the first location in the semantic space to at least one target location;

means for identifying target locations close in meaning to the input, wherein the closeness in meaning is determined by the semantic distance from the first location in the semantic space to the target location in the semantic space for each target data element; and

means for organizing the identified target data elements according to the monetary value of the target location and the semantic distance between the target location and the first location.

70. A method for generating a search result comprising:

maintaining a target data set of text elements;

assigning a base monetary value to said text elements in said target data set,

receiving a text search input;

relating terms in said search input to terms in said target data set of text elements by semantic association, wherein each term in the input has a predetermined semantic distance to each term in the target data set of text elements; and

organizing the text elements in accordance with the base monetary value of said text elements and the closeness in meaning between said text element terms and said search input terms.

A2 71. A method according to claim 70, wherein the price of retrieving target data is dynamically calculated in response to said search input, the price of returning the target data in a search result increasing from said base monetary value with decreased semantic distance between said text element terms and said search input terms.
